



RICK WILSON MP

Federal Member for O'Connor



MEDIA RELEASE

More funding for Royal Flying Doctor Service

22 May 2014: The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) will receive an additional \$6 million from the Abbott Government for health services in rural and remote areas.

Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor said the additional funding for 2014-15 would support emergency aeromedical evacuations as well as other essential primary health services provided by the RFDS.

"The role of this iconic Australian institution in our regional and remote communities should never be underestimated," Mr Wilson said.

Over the course of the year, the RFDS will carry out around 5,000 emergency evacuations along with over 5,000 GP and nursing clinics, 40,000 patient consultations and manage more than 2,000 medical chests.

The cost of delivering services in rural and remote areas has risen, leading to a shortfall in funding for next financial year.

"The extra \$6 million we're providing will ensure the RFDS can maintain their current level of essential health services for people in remote areas where no other such services are available.

Minister for Health Hon Peter Dutton MP said without this additional funding, a number of remote locations would have been left without regular medical attention, including communities with a high proportion of Indigenous Australians.

"Funding the RFDS to provide vital health services in the outback is an essential component of the Abbott Government's commitment to Australians in rural and remote areas," Mr Dutton said.

The RFDS is a significant provider of rural and remote health services, covering a service area of more than 7.1 million square kilometres. It receives funding from both the Commonwealth and state and territory governments.

The Australian Government funds the RFDS to provide emergency aeromedical and other essential services in rural and remote NSW, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory south of Tennant Creek.

ENDS

Media contact:

Jamila Savoy-Soubotian

0418 593 061

jamila.savoy-soubotian@aph.gov.au

Kalgoorlie Office 345 Hannan St, Kalgoorlie WA 6430

Phone 08 9021 2044

Toll Free 1300 652 084

Fax 08 9021 2033

Albany Office Shop 5, St Emilie Way, Albany WA 6330

Phone 08 9842 2777

Toll Free 1300 652 061

Fax 08 9021 2033

Canberra R2 112, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Phone 02 6277 4101

Fax 02 6277 2073

Web www.rickwilson.com.au **Email** rick.wilson.mp@aph.gov.au